THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission to prevent spurious and sub-standard I.V. Fluids in the market primarily related to upgradation of Good Manufacturing Practices for manufacture, storage and distribution of I.V. Fluids. The Government has since upgraded Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 which incorporate Good Manufacturing Practices vide Notification GSR No. 894 (E) dated 11.12.01. This not only upgrades GMP requirements in general but incorporates a new specific Section within Schedule M which has specific requirements on strict control of manufacture of I.V. Fluids. Both in the glass and plastic containers, in terms of building and civil work, air handling system (central air conditioning), environment monitoring, sanitation, equipments, water systems, manufacturing and sterilization processes, documentations, areas needed etc. Plant equipments, areas have also been prescribed for different sections for undertaking manufacture of I.V. Fluids to prevent manufacture and marketing of sub-standard I.V. Fluids.

Rise in HIV cases in Manipur

2233. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HIV positive cases in Manipur have increased at an alarming rate during the last couple of years;

(b) whether it was due to the fact that people in Manipur were not made aware about the causes and prevention of AIDS;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the responsibility fixed for the laxity; and

(d) the number of known HIV cases in Manipur at present and the action being taken to stop spreading of the dreaded disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): No, Sir. The number of HIV/AIDS cases in the State of Manipur during the last three years is as below:—

1999	61
2000	364
2001	307

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) The cumulative number of HIV/AIDS cases in Manipur as on 31.03.2002 is 1095. Government has launched a comprehensive AIDS prevention and control programme which is a 100% Centrally sponsored scheme being implemented in all Statcs/UTs including Manipur through States/UTs. AIDS Control Societies. The main components of the programme consists of:—

* Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counselling, condom promotion, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

* Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counselling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.

* Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care.

* Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability of the intervation programmes at national, State and Community levels.

* Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.

Deaths of children due to malnutrition

†2234. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of children die due to malnutrition in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to take any specific steps to check it; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) It is estimated that malnutrition is a contributory factor in about fifty per cent of deaths in children. Several steps have been taken to improve nutritional status of children. These include, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices. The Integrated Child Development Scheme is being implemented to provide supplementary nutrition to young children and pregnant and lactating mothers. To prevent micronutrient deficiencies of Vitamin A and Iron, prophylactic programmes are under implementation.

Medical facilities for CGHS beneficiaries in private hospitals

2235. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh scheme has been formulated recently to allow certain categories of beneficiaries of the Central Government Health Scheme to avail of medical facilities in various private hospital also;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the list of such private hospitals in the capital and other leading towns in the country with the specific facilities available there and their appointed liaison officers to facilitate hassle-free application of the new scheme; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.